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Economic Commission for Latin America

Regional Conference on the Integration of Women
into Latin American Economic and Social
Development (CRM)

Group of Government Experts to Appraise the
Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action
for the Integration of Women into Latin American
Economic and Social Development

Quito, Ecuador, 8-9 March 1979

COMMENTS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
ON THE DOCUMENT " Women in Latin America: The Situation as Regards
the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action"
(E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2)

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the comments made by specialized agencies of the United Nations system on the document "Women in Latin America: The situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action" (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2). These comments, which were agreed upon at the inter-agency meeting held on 11 January 1979, are reproduced in the Spanish alphabetical order of the respective agencies.

/UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

With regard to your note dated 14 February 1979 concerning the appraisal document on the situation of women in Latin America, I have pleasure in informing you that we have no substantive comments on this document.

/INTERNATIONAL LABOUR

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO). Liaison
office with CEPAL

Thank you for your letter of 14 February in which you were so kind as to send me CEPAL document E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2 "Women in Latin America: The situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action", and in which you also ask for ILO's comments on this document by 23 February at the latest.

I should like you to note, in this respect, that since both our Regional Office in Lima and the appropriate department of ILO Headquarters must familiarize themselves with the contents of this document in order to make comments on it, it would be very difficult to achieve this within the time-limit set. The Regional Office in Lima is, of course, now in possession of a copy, while another copy is being sent to our Headquarters by the quickest means.

At all events, however, it would be highly desirable for our Office if the time-limit could be extended until 2 March 1979.

/FOOD AND

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION

A. Reference is made to your letter of 14 February, received on Friday 15th, requesting comments from the FAO office on the document "Women in Latin America: the situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action" (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2), to be submitted to the Group of Government Experts meeting to evaluate the implementation of the Plan of Action in Quito, 8-9 March 1979.

The little time available (from the 15th to the 22nd) for analyzing the document prevents us from making exhaustive comments in all the detail which might be desired for the purposes mentioned in your letter, and "distributing them together with the document" at the Quito meeting. We should therefore like to point out that these comments are only intended to give you in CEPAL our reactions and suggestions for improving the present document and others like it prepared in the future.

B. Comments on the document "Women in Latin America: the situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action" (E/CEPAL/CRM/R.1/2, 31.179).

1. General comments:

(a) The purpose of this document is not clear to those who have read it in order to prepare these comments. It is an extremely general document, which only mentions some trends, particularly in areas such as education and employment, while most entirely passing over others such as nutrition and, to a lesser extent, housing. We feel that the document does not provide a sufficient basis for the work to be carried out by the Group of Government Experts which has to evaluate the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action (RAP).

(b) The section dealing with the conceptual framework does not provide clear definitions of the concepts chosen to serve as an analytical framework, and once again the terminology used makes the document difficult to understand for the reader who is not specialized in sociology.

(c) The validity may be questioned of calling this an evaluation of the implementation of the RAP only 18 months after it was approved by the Governments, as mentioned by the authors in section 9 (b) of the document.

/Furthermore, the

Furthermore, the RAP contains a large number of specific action proposals, whereas this document deals with only a very small number of them.

(d) The prospects mentioned for the rest of this century are merely a continuation of observed trends. As long as more concrete plans are not available, it will be impossible to know what the future holds in store.

(e) We fully agree with the emphasis placed on the problems of rural women who become heads of households either temporarily or for a long period, and wish to stress the importance of adopting the kinds of policies mentioned in the document to improve their situation.

Suggestions are given below; some of them are rather general, others more specific.

2. General suggestions

(a) It would be desirable to supplement as rapidly as possible the information gathered through the questionnaires sent to governments with information existing in each country and at the regional level (Population Censuses, budget and food consumption surveys, employment and under-employment surveys and so forth) by an ad-hoc group of experts of different international agencies and CEPAL, with a view to complying more exactly with the recommendations of the world and regional plans of action for the integration of women.

Some tables are attached which, if filled, would be very useful for studying trends, undertaking research into other important aspects of these problems, fixing clear targets and making precise recommendations for countries.

3. Specific suggestions

(a) The terminology of a number of concepts employed in the document should be clarified. For example, phrases such as "to reproduce individuals in both daily and generational cycles" and "daily reproduction" which seem to obscure the basic ideas of the analysis and produce negative reactions in the reader. More accessible language would make a positive contribution to the integration of women in development.

/(b) Mention

(b) Mention should be made in every case in the document of the sources of information used to establish general conclusions and trends; the tables on which the study is based should be included, with statistics by countries and their sources, so that the reader can have specific information with which to draw his own conclusions and make comparisons.

Sources are important because in most cases these are estimates based on censuses and observed trends during the intercensus period, since there are few national household surveys which allow for quantification of trends during the five-year period.

(c) Education. This section does not begin by mentioning what was set for in the RAP, as the other sections do. The presentation of all the sections should be standardized.

(d) Employment. It is stated in paragraph 55 that it has not been determined whether the lower incomes of women are due to a lower valuation of female labour or to the nature of the activities in which they are engaged. It would be better to emphasize that both of these factors are in play, as well as the attitudes of the women themselves towards their work.

The points raised in paragraphs 55 and 59 are important, but the data with which to check this information is missing. Are they based on surveys or other sources? We suggest that this information should be included in the document.

(e) Health. This document contains no information on the nutrition component of the RAP. For example, what progress has been made on recommendations 11, on the establishing of national policies and food nutrition, and 12, on the encouragement of breast feeding? The relevant information exists in the National Planning Offices, Health Ministries and the Headquarters of the PIA/PNAN Interagency Project in Santiago.

(f) Housing. Paragraph 77 is rather unclear. In rural areas, greater demand for housing would be due solely to a rise in the number of new families; in urban zones, this factor is due rather to migration from the countryside to the city. For example, it may be pointed out that in

the cases of Brasil and Colombia there is a large number of empty dwellings in the rural area. We believe that in rural zones the housing problem is one of quality rather than quantity.

(g) What is the meaning of "central countries" in paragraph 80?

C. Annex

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE BY URBAN AND RURAL AREAS FOR THE REFERENCE
YEARS BY COUNTRIES

Total fertility rate <u>1/</u>				
Country	Reference year <u>2/</u>	Total	Urban	Rural
Argentina	1965			
	1970			
	1975			
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Venezuela				

Sources: These must be given clearly, and it should be stated whether they are estimates.

1/ Defined as the total number of live children that would be born to women at the end of their reproductive life under the pattern of fertility reflected by specific rates of quinquennial age groups, with $5 \sum f_i$, where f_i = specific rate for age groups i ($i = 15 - 19, \dots, 45 - 49$ years).

2/ Information can be obtained for the years around those given. At least two years should be requested, if possible about 1970 and 1975.

SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATES BY AGE,^{2/} BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL,
BY URBAN AND RURAL AREA, FOR THE REFERENCE
YEARS AND BY COUNTRIES

Country	Reference year <u>1/</u>	Age groups	Total	Educational level			
				Illiterate and incomplete primary	Completed primary	Secondary	Higher
	1965	15-19					
		20-24					
		25-29					
		30-34					
		35-39					
		40-44					
		45-49					
	1970						
	.						
	.						
	.						
	1975						
	.						
	.						
	.						
				Urban			
				.			
				.			
				.			
				.			
				Rural			
				.			
				.			
				.			
				.			

1/ For years around those indicated. At least two years should be requested.
2/ Births in the last year to 1,000 women of age group i (i = 15-19,, 45-49).

GENERAL, CHILD AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE, AND LIFE EXPECTANCY
AT BIRTH BY SEX, BY URBAN AND RURAL AREA, FOR THE
REFERENCE YEARS, BY COUNTRY

Country	Reference year <u>1/</u>	GMR <u>2/</u>	GMR <u>3/</u>	Maternal mortality rate <u>4/</u>	Men	Women
	1965					
	1970					
	1975					
				Urban		
				.		
				.		
				.		
				Rural		
				.		
				.		
				.		

Sources: These must be clearly indicated.

- 1/ For years around those indicated; at least two years.
2/ Deaths per 1,000 population.
3/ Deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births.
4/ Deaths of women during confinement per 10,000 live births.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE FEMALE POPULATION BY AREA AND AGE GROUP OF THE
REFERENCE YEARS, BY COUNTRIES

Country	Reference year <u>1/</u>	Age groups	Total	Single	Married	Members of <u>de</u> <u>facto</u> unions	Widowed	Separated and divorced
	1965	-15						
		15-19						
		20-24						
		25-29						
		30-34						
		35-39						
		40-44						
		45-49						
		50 +						
	1970							
	.							
	.							
	.							
	.							
	1975							
	.							
	.							
	.							
	.							
					Urban			
					Rural			

1/ May be around the years indicated. At least two years are requested.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE FEMALE POPULATION AGED 20-24 YEARS, BY
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND URBAN OR RURAL AREA, FOR
THE REFERENCE YEARS, BY COUNTRIES

Country	Reference year <u>1/</u>	Educational level	Total	Single	Married	Members of <u>de</u> <u>facto</u> unions	Widowed	Separated and divorced
	1965	Illiterate and Unfin- ished Primary						
		Completed Primary						
		Secondary						
		Higher						
	1970	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
	1975	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
					Urban			
					.			
					.			
					.			
					.			
					Rural			
					.			
					.			
					.			
					.			

Sources: These must be clearly indicated.

1/ May be around the years indicated. At least two years are requested.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE FEMALE POPULATION AGED 40-44 YEARS, BY
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND URBAN OR RURAL AREA, FOR
THE REFERENCE YEARS, BY COUNTRIES

Country	Reference year <u>1/</u>	Educational level	Total	Single	Married	Members of de <u>facto</u> unions	Widowed	Separated and divorced
	1965	Illiterate and Unfin- ished Primary						
		Completed Primary						
		Secondary						
		Higher						
	1970	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
	1975	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
	.	.						
					Urban			
					.			
					.			
					.			
					.			
					Rural			
					.			
					.			
					.			
					.			

Sources: These must be clearly indicated.

1/ May be around the years indicated. At least two years are requested.

Level of education = Illiterate

PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES, BY AGE
GROUPS AND SEX

Age groups and Sex	American total %	American countries		
		Argentina %	Bolivia %	Venezuela %
Both sexes				
6- 9 years				
10-14				
15-19				
20-24				
25-29				
30-39				
40-49				
50-59				
60-69				
70 and over				
Men				
6- 9 years				
10-14				
15-19				
20-24				
25-29				
30-39				
40-49				
50-59				
60-69				
70 and over				
Women				
6- 9 years				
10-14				
15-19				
20-24				
25-29				
30-39				
40-49				
50-59				
60-69				
70 and over				

Table A = Percentage

Table B = Number of persons

Similar tables for = literacy
elementary
middle
higher

Sources of information =
Population Censuses for
1960 and 1970

EMPLOYMENT

PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES BY THE SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY OF THE ACTIVE POPULATION AND A CLASSIFICATION OF THE INACTIVE POPULATION, BY SEX

Socio-professional category and classification of economically inactive persons	Total, American countries	American countries		
		Argentina	Bolivia	Venezuela

1) Both sexes

Economically active persons

Agricultural activities

Employer

Own-account farmer

Employee

Non-agricultural activities

Employer, liberal
professions

Own-account business

Other established

own-account activities

Other non-established

own-account activities

Higher-level employee

Middle-level employee

Other non-manual employee

Manual employee

Other activities

Unpaid family worker

Economically inactive persons

Inactive with income

Housewife active in the
home

Inactive without income

Table A : Percentage

Table B : Number of persons

Sources: employment surveys

The international classification
might be used

2) Men

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3) Women

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INCOME AND SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME IN THE DIFFERENT AMERICAN COUNTRIES BY THE
SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY OF THE ACTIVE POPULATION AND A
CLASSIFICATION OF THE INACTIVE POPULATION, BY SEX

Socio-professional category and classification of economically inactive persons	Total, American countries	American countries		
		Argentina	Bolivia	Venezuela

1) Both sexes

Economically active persons

Agricultural activities

Employer

Own-account farmer

Employee

Non-agricultural activities

Employer, liberal
professions

Own-account business

Other established

own-account activities

Other non-established

own-account activities

Higher-level employee

Middle-level employee

Other non-manual employee

Manual employee

Other activities

Unpaid family worker

Economically inactive persons

Inactive with income

Housewife active in the
home

Inactive without income

Sources: Employment surveys

Other tables: socio-professional category,
sex, marital status: single
married
separated
widowed

2) Men

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3) Women

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

In the absence of Mr. G. Fernández, I have pleasure in referring to your letter of 14 February 1979 in which you request our comments on the above-mentioned document which is to be submitted to the meeting of the Group of Government Experts to Appraise the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action (Quito, 8-9 March 1979).

The document is a good summary of the activities carried out and it also contains very sound observations on some indicators which reveal situations where women are still not sharing fully in the benefits of social, cultural, economic and other forms of development. It will therefore form a good basis for the discussions to be held in Quito.

From a general point of view, reading of the document would seem to indicate the need for the Plan to contain more specific interagency and intersectoral short-term programmes and activities designed to achieve better integration of women into economic and social development.

The following are some of the specific comments which spring to mind:

- In paragraph 42(b) on page 14 it is stated that "Rural areas would call for special attention in this respect". It might be more appropriate, however, to say that the special attention being given to rural areas in most of the countries of the region should be continued and if possible intensified. Moreover, this would be more in keeping with paragraph 121(a)(i).

- In paragraph 42(c) on the same page, the question of secondary education is referred to, but nothing is said about technical and vocational training. It would be worth adding something on this type of education in order to tie in with paragraph 121(a)(iii) on page 38.

- That part of paragraph 45(c) on page 16 which refers to the increase in the number of agricultural workers is not very clear and may cause misunderstandings.

- It would appear to be desirable to correct the text of lines 2 and 3 of paragraph 54 on page 18 to read: "... who are paid much less than the rate for the job ...".

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- In paragraph 121(a)(ii) on page 38 it is stated that special programmes should be adopted for young adults. In many cases, however, what is needed is to extend or improve them.

- In order to enable women to initiate other activities it is necessary, in addition to the programmes indicated in paragraph 124(b) on page 40, to implement at the same time an employment and job programme to make it really possible for them to start other activities.

PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO)

With reference to your letter of 14 February 1979, we have read the document "Women in Latin America: The situation as regards the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action", and have the following comments to make on it:

The PAHO/WHO contribution submitted by Dr. Héctor Acuña to Mr. Julián Bardeci in our letter FMH3/7/6 of 7 December 1978 gives a detailed description of the health situation of women and children in the Americas, but in summarizing this contribution in the above-named document some important details concerning the countries have been omitted and only vague and general information has been reproduced.

With regard to paragraph 68 on page 21, this should reproduce the specific data on nurses and auxiliary medical personnel which are given in paragraph 4 on page 5 of our contribution.

Finally, as regards paragraph 69 on page 22, we feel that it is important to give a more optimistic opinion on the future of health services, in keeping with the recommendations described in paragraph 5 on page 6 of the PAHO/WHO contribution.

